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2010

The Cephalonian Method of Instruction for First Year Science Undergraduates

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Recommended Citation

Galloway, Linda, "The Cephalonian Method of Instruction for First Year Science Undergraduates" (2010). *Upstate New York Science Librarians Conference*. 41.

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The Cephalonian Method of Library Instruction for First Year Science Undergraduates

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“Cephalonian”?

- Developed and implemented by Cardiff University (UK) librarians.
- Wished to have student interaction yet have controlled pace and structure
- They used humor, music and color in their presentations (music for “relaxed alertness”)



Image: www.thegreektravel.com

What is it?

- Innovative induction method
 - Generally first exposure to college library/librarian
- Informative
 - Basic library resource information is presented
- Interactive
 - Students ask scripted and unscripted questions
- Lighthearted atmosphere
 - Scripted questions are phrased in a humorous way

Cephalonian @



- Used in introductory classes for biology and biotechnology students
- Previously have been doing “25 Tips in 50 Minutes” with these classes
- Like to have a unique presentation – these students often hear my lectures in several different classes
- Hand out cards with questions to students as they enter class
- Provide introductory info. then time for questions

Our Method

1. Developed a series of questions from the material we wished to present.
2. Put together a slide show of introductory information.
3. Categorized the queries, developed “catchy” questions and made index cards with graphics.
4. Developed color-coded slides to answer the questions.
5. Handed out questions to students
6. Put on the show! Ideally in one hour time slot.

Questions on Cards

Blue - Introductory Questions

**Where are the libraries?
How to get help
How to find the presented info. again**

(5 questions)

Yellow – Catalog/Books

**How to find books
Using the catalog to find items
Borrowing policies**

(5 questions)

Green – Databases/Articles

**How to access serial literature
Finding articles on specific topics
Locating full text**

(6 questions)

Purple – Wrap up

**Services in the library
Reserves & ILL
Library accounts**

(5 questions)

Sample cards

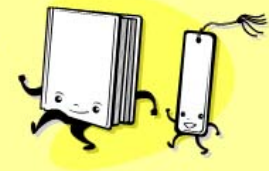
Let's be honest, I'm not going to remember much from hearing this today. Is the information you give us online somewhere?



BLUE

1

The tabs on the Moon Library home page are confusing. Which search do I use to find books?



YELLOW

2

I think I hear coyotes outside of my dorm at night. How do I find articles about coyotes in New York?



GREEN

2

I prefer to do my homework in silence. Is there anywhere quiet in the library for me to work?



PURPLE

5

Why use this method?

- Working with mostly uninterested freshman at 5pm
- Promotes a positive first impression of the library
- Makes learning more personable and enjoyable
- Humorous instruction motivates and energizes
- Fun and novel for the instructor!

Assessment

Library Guest Lecture Evaluation Form

Date of presentation: _____

What is the most important thing you learned in today's class?

What is still unclear to you?

Thanks! Linda Galloway, imgalloway@esf.edu

References

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Questions?